

Application No.: 09/557,796 Attorney Docket No.: 252/123
Filing Date: April 25, 2000 (037002-0205)
Response after Final Office Action (mailed July 14, 2003, Paper No. 24) faxed October 14, 2003
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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 99, 135 and 136 as indicated in the listing of claims below. Please cancel claims 101, 102, 108, 109, 130, 131 and 133 without prejudice.

Listing of claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-98. (Cancelled).

99. (Currently amended) A recombinant cell, comprising a first recombinant nucleic acid molecule encoding one or more polypeptides that convert a source compound to a target compound, and a second **recombinant** nucleic acid molecule encoding one or more polypeptides that provide a detectable signal in the presence of said target compound, wherein said second **recombinant** nucleic acid molecule comprises **a reporter gene and** an inducible promoter to control expression of polypeptides encoded therein.

100. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said detectable signal is selected from the group consisting of growth, fluorescence, luminescence, and color.

101.-102. (Cancelled).

103. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said target compound is selected from the group consisting of ascorbate and 2-Keto-L-Gulonate.

104. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.

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105. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 104, wherein said bacterial cell is *Klebsiella oxytoca*.

106. (Cancelled).

107. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said inducible promoter is induced by an inducer distinct from said target compound.

108.-131. (Cancelled).

132. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said inducible promoter is induced by said target compound.

133. (Cancelled).

134. (Previously presented) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said first recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more environmental DNA fragments.

135. (Currently amended) The recombinant cell of claim 99, wherein said inducible promoter of said second recombinant nucleic acid molecule is derived from a ~~comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding one or more~~ Yia-operon polypeptide related polypeptides.

136. (Currently amended) The recombinant cell of claim 135, wherein said ~~one or more~~ Yia-operon polypeptide is related polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of YiaJ, YiaK, YiaL, ORF1, YiaX2, LyxK, YiaQ, YiaR, and YiaS.